

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY
VETERANS' RECOGNITION SUBCOMMITTEE**

Pursuant to Section 19.84, Wis. Stats., a regular meeting of the **Brown County Veterans' Recognition Subcommittee** was held on Tuesday, March 20, 2012, at 5:00 p.m., in Room 201 of the Northern Building, 305 E. Walnut Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

PRESENT: Chair Bernie Erickson, Rosemary Desisles, Delores Pierce, Duane Pierce, Jim Haskins, John Walschinski, Ron Van Dyke, John Maino, Jerry Polus, Joe Witkowski, Troy Ness, Ed Koslowski, Sherry Steenbock, Ed Koslowski

EXCUSED: Donald Bettine

**Running Total of Veterans' Certificates: 1248

1. **Call Meeting to Order.**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bernie Erickson at 5:00 p.m.

2. **Invocation by Jim Haskins.**

3. **Approve/Modify Agenda.**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY DUANE PIERCE, SECONDED BY ROSEMARY DESISLES TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. **Approve/Modify Minutes of February 21, 2012.**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY JIM HASKINS, SECONDED BY ROSEMARY DESISLES TO APPROVE THE MINUTES. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. **Discussion regarding Military Appreciation Day at Brown County Fair – Ron Van Dyke, Fair Board Administrator.**

Ron Van Dyke of the Brown County Fair Board attended this meeting to answer questions with regard to Military Appreciation Day at the Fair. He indicated that the Fair Board anticipates the vets will do their ceremony at 6:45 p.m. He also stated that a mounted color guard will be provided by the Fair to present the colors and the band will then play from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. Van Dyke stated that he would like the band to set up early afternoon if possible so sound checks can be done prior to another band which is scheduled to play at 3:30 p.m.

Jerry Polus stated that he has received written confirmation from the Air Force Band of Mid America that they will play at the Fair. This will be a seven piece ensemble known as Star Lifter. Polus would like the events in the tent to be held throughout the day with the highlight being the performance by the band. Van Dyke stated that this would not be a problem and confirmed that the Fair will be providing the tent and Polus would inform him how many tables they will need set up in the tent. Ed Koslowski, Chairman of the Veterans Meet and Greet, stated that at their last event they had 14 different participants, each in their own station and he anticipated that there may be even more this year. Koslowski continued that they would like to have their booths set up around noon so that they would be available all afternoon. Van Dyke stated that the Fairgrounds open at 8:00 a.m. and they would be able to begin setting up at that time. It was also indicated that Rolling Thunder would be interested in doing a table ceremony prior to the beginning of the band performance. Van Dyke also confirmed that the Fair would be providing lemonade and cookies as in the past.

Polus stated an emcee was needed for the ceremony and John Maino stated that he may be able to emcee this event, but he could not commit until he got the Packer schedule to know if he would be hosting troops at a game that day. Polus continued that he would like to have posters ready for mailing and distribution in the June or July timeframe to all area veterans' organizations, job center, ADRC, Army National Guard Armory, Naval and Army Reserve Centers, nursing homes, and assisted living facilities as well as school veterans officers at the area schools.

Polus stated the other thing that needed to be developed is an agenda and time table for the event and he anticipated the County Executive would give remarks prior to the band performance. He also stated that since the format of this year's event is different than in the past, thought will need to be given regarding prize distribution. He stated that they will have the usual mugs, tee shirts and stickers and both Bernie Erickson and John Maino felt that they could have other items donated. Jim Haskins stated that he will coordinate the door prize drawings with Duane Pierce. One suggestion was to hold drawings periodically throughout the evening.

Rosemary Desisles reported that she had contacted Chris Dantoin with the 432nd concerning the possibility of a "welcome home" parade as was discussed at last month's meeting. She was advised that the idea of having a parade would probably not be feasible as the troops are coming home in increments instead of all at the same time. Dantoin did state however that his unit would be happy to help out at the event at the Fair if necessary and she will continue to be in touch with him and keep the subcommittee advised. Erickson encouraged Desisles to let Dantoin know that free tickets would be available to anybody in the 432nd who wished to attend.

6. Report from CVSO Jerry Polus.

Polus reported that the Veterans Treatment Court will be in session with the first participant on March 30, 2012. Court will be held every Friday in the afternoon with Judge Kelley presiding. Polus stated that there are currently seven or eight participants. Polus stated that the core treatment team meets on Fridays to discuss applicants and determine who moves on into the program. Polus continued that they had sent correspondence to all veterans organizations soliciting donations and explaining the treatment court and they have now received their first donation and it was from the Order of the Purple Heart.

Polus continued his report by saying that he had recently attended a meeting of the Fox Valley Veterans Council in Appleton. This group is made up of veterans organizations throughout the Fox Valley. He continued that this group gets donations through American National Bank for their emergency fund. The Bank gives a certain percentage of their loan interest to the veterans fund and over \$1,000 per month is being donated to the Veterans Council. Polus stated that he would be able to access the emergency funds if necessary. Polus also stated that he would continue to attend these meetings as he felt there would be mutual benefit to sharing ideas and information.

Polus concluded his report by informing the subcommittee that he had recently received a resignation from one of his staff members and another will be leaving for maternity leave shortly. Other than that, things in his office are going well and they have been very busy and there are a lot of things going on that will benefit veterans.

7. Report from Committee Members Present (Desisles, Haskins, Maino, Ness, Pierce, Steenbock, Walschinski & Witkowski).

-Rosemary Desisles stated that she did not have anything to add, other than what she reported concerning the return of the 432nd.

-Jim Haskins reported that he had recently seen an ad in the Green Bay Press Gazette that said that Rivers Bend will give a 20 percent discount to veterans on Tuesdays.

-John Maino reported that he had recently spent 10 days at with the 432nd at Camp Nathan Smith in Afghanistan where they held a Packer Party on Thanksgiving Night. They gave away a football signed by Aaron Rodgers as well as a number of other prizes and Maino stated that the party was a success and well received.

Maino also stated that they had recently attended a benefit for Sgt. Alexander who was injured about two weeks before Maino arrived in Afghanistan. Sgt. Alexander is currently at a rehab facility in Minneapolis. They were hoping the benefit would be attended by 250 – 300 people, but they stopped counting at 670 and they estimate that there were over 800 in attendance and approximately \$50,000 was raised.

-Troy Ness reported that he will be giving a presentation in Oconto on the new Humana Dental plan being offered to veterans. He also stated that Humana will soon be offering a plan to veterans for PTSD.

Ness also felt that efforts should be made to have younger veterans join the various veterans organizations and he will continue to encourage the younger vets to get involved.

-Duane Pierce stated that he had heard of a Vietnam Veterans welcome home celebration at the Charlotte, North Carolina speedway on March 31 which was organized by Don Jones, who was also the organizer of LZ Lambeau. Jones advised Pierce that he is involved in an event being coordinated with the Wisconsin Veterans Museum and the Railroad Museum. It will be an official State level tribute to the WWII veterans and will be held on Friday, May 4. More details will be forthcoming and Pierce will keep this group advised.

Pierce also stated that he had recently had the opportunity to go to Eau Claire for an event put on by Thuy Smith International. This is an organization started by Thuy Smith, the daughter of a Cambodian woman and Vietnam Veteran Soldier. The purpose of the organization is to bring Vietnam Vets and the people of Cambodia together. He found this event to be very worthwhile and very healing. This was the third annual event and will continue to be held annually on the second Saturday of March. Pierce urged anyone that was able to attend as he felt it was a very, very good event.

-Sherry Steenbock reported that four new certificates had been sent out. She also said that she continues to try to get in touch with Dave Behrend to find out when the VFW Post plans to host the radio show this year, but she has not heard from him.

-John Walschinski did not have anything to report.

-Joe Witkowski reported that he had read an article in the Green Bay Press Gazette on March 13 that indicated that a career and benefits fair for veterans will be held on June 6, 2012 from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at St. Norbert College in De Pere and a virtual job fair is scheduled for 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. on March 22, 2012 at St. Norberts.

Witkowski also reported on a man who ran 135 miles in two days carrying a flag ran from Kenosha to Appleton to honor Wisconsin veterans killed or injured in war in Iraq or Afghanistan.

8. Such Other Matters as Authorized by Law.

9. Adjourn.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY JIM HASKINS, SECONDED BY DUANE PIERCE TO ADJOURN AT 6:10 P.M. VOTE TAKEN. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted,

Therese Giannunzio
Recording Secretary